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NEWPORT HISTORY

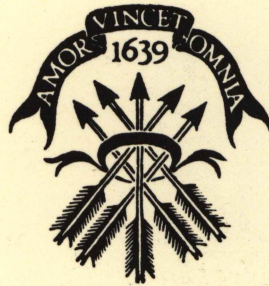
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COVER: 18th Century Bleeding Bowl

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Gerald L. Willis	Active
Anthony M. Zane	Business
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RECENT ACCESSIONS

George Winthrop Haight, of New York City, has presented to the Society an important and valuable collection of Newport letters, papers and documents dating from the 17th to the early 19th centuries. Among these are records associated with such well-known Newport personalities as Abraham Redwood, Aaron Lopez, Caleb Carr, Nathaniel Smibert, Thomas Gould, Ezra Stiles, and Governor John Collins. Although much of the material relates to mercantile matters, a significant portion is of political interest, especially with respect to the Revolution and the causes thereof. These papers should be enormously helpful to historians and other researchers of the period.

Inez West of Portland, Oregon sent us a collection of 32 pieces of assorted silverware which belonged to the Taylor family, formerly of Newport. Most of the pieces date from the early middle 19th century and include the work of such silversmiths as Nichols, I. A. Shaw, Webster & Co. and J. Gorham & Son. Mrs. West also gave a pair of early school slates to add to the children's museum.

"ADOPT-AN-OBJECT"

Thanks to the generosity of Douglas Campbell, of the Douglas Campbell Furniture Company, Newport, our seventeenth century chair (see Fall issue) will be accurately restored. Under the direction of scholars at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, a specialist in historic upholstery will cover the chair with new leather and tacks.

We hope that our members will continue to support the conservation of objects in our museum. By offering to "adopt" an object, the donor will help prolong the life of our collections, promote accuracy of appearance, and improve the quality of new exhibits currently being planned.

Gifts for conservation are tax-deductible. Each restored object will be displayed with a permanent label that will acknowledge the generosity of the contributor(s). For estimates and further information, contact Jeanne Vibert, research curator, at the Society.



PAINTED OVERMANTEL, c. 1740.

John Potter (1716-1787), notorious counterfeiter, and his family are the subjects of this painted wooden panel from Potter's country house in Matunuck, Rhode Island. The Society is very fortunate to own this historically-significant portrait which is nationally recognized. The painting is unusual for several reasons: it is a very early group portrait; it is a rare depiction of a tea-drinking ceremony; it is the only colonial portrait that includes a black servant. Due to shrinkage of the panel, the paint has bad cracks along the grain of the wood. A surface layer of varnish has dulled and darkened, obscuring detail and color. The cost of cleaning and restoring this overmantel will be more than \$700, and we are asking for several contributors to divide the cost. We hope that three or four members will help the Society preserve this portrait of national importance.

THE NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Newport Historical Society has established a library and museum of Newport and Rhode Island history since its formation in 1894. Three centuries of political, business and family manuscripts, including the early records of the Town Council housed for the City of Newport, together with important holdings of maps, prints, photographs, newspapers and maritime artifacts, are preserved by the Society as one facet of its silver, paintings and ceramics which give it a representative regional collection of the American decorative arts.

Incorporated into the Society's original building is the 1728 Newport Friends Day Chapel Church. In addition the Society owns the Warren House (1720-1721), the Friends Meeting House (1720), and Green End Farm.

Hours: The society is open to the public

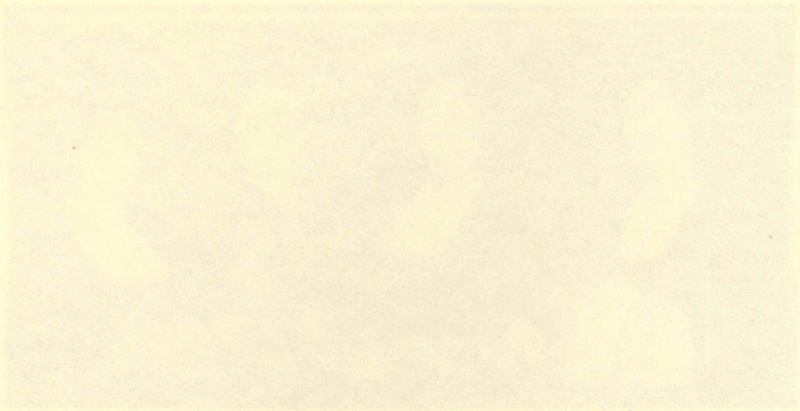
Tuesday through Friday 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Saturday 9:30 A.M. to 12 Noon

Closed Sunday, Christmas, Holidays

The Society's Library, Museum and the Friends Meeting House are open Tuesday through Friday, Monday through Saturday 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

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PAINTED OVERMANTLE, c. 1840

John Butler (1774-1871), cartoonist, caricaturist, and his family are the subject of the painted wooden panel from Butler's country house at Marne, Rhode Island. The Society is very fortunate to own this historically significant portrait which is nationally recognized. The painting is original for several reasons. It is a very early group portrait; it is a rare depiction of a tea-drinking ceremony; it is the only colored portrait that includes a black servant. Due to shrinkage of the panel, the paint has had cracks along the side of the head. A surface layer of varnish has dulled and discolored, obscuring detail and color. The cost of cleaning and retouching this overmantle will be more than \$200, and we are asking for several contributors to share the cost. We hope that three or four members will help the Society preserve this portrait of national importance.

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Incorporated into the Society's fireproof building is the 1729 Newport Seventh Day Baptist Church. In addition the Society owns the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House (1675), the Friends Meeting House (1699), and Green End Fort.

Hours: The Society is open to the public

Tuesday through Friday 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Saturday 9:30 A.M. to 12 Noon

Closed Sundays, Mondays, Holidays

The Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House and the Friends Meeting House are open June 15th to Labor Day. Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Newport History solicits original articles on any aspect of Newport County history. All submissions will be considered by the editorial committee for publication. Obtain information from the editor, Cynthia Menge, at Society headquarters.

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